

# Upstate Forever

January 30, 2007

South Carolina Public Service Commission  
101 Executive Center Dr.  
Suite 100  
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Re: Docket No. 2005-385-E

Dear Commissioners:

Upstate Forever is a membership-based, nonprofit organization promoting sensible growth, sustainable development, and conservation in the Upstate region of South Carolina. Founded in 1998, we currently have over 1,800 members who support our work.

Our organization has long been involved in energy issues, advocating for less reliance on fossil fuels, increased energy efficiency, and the use of renewable energy sources. Last year, through a partnership that included the Greenville Home Builders Association, the South Carolina Energy Office, and Southface Energy Institute, we completed "Upstate House," a demonstration project for sustainable residential construction in downtown Greenville.

Upstate House meets all Earth Craft and Energy Star standards and is open for scheduled visits by developers, builders, architects, and interested citizens. It has already inspired two local builders to construct all of their homes in accordance with Earth Craft standards. For more information, see [www.upstatehouse.org](http://www.upstatehouse.org).

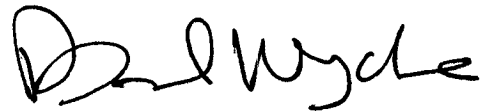
**COPY**  
Posted: D. Duke  
Dept: SA-015  
Date: 2-1-07  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Upstate House does not include voltaic solar panels due in large part to the length of time required to recover the costs of purchasing and installing a solar system. Every day, homeowners around our state are crunching the numbers and facing the same hard reality. We sorely need new policies and incentives to make renewable energy generation more economically feasible for our residents. One such policy is net metering, which has the additional benefit of supplying extra energy to the power grid at times of peak usage.

We urge you to proceed as quickly as possible in establishing net metering in South Carolina. Our state needs to join the 40 other states which require public utilities to purchase surplus power from their residential customers. Requiring net metering in South Carolina will unleash the creativity and capital of the private sector, lead to the increased use of renewable energy sources, improve environmental quality, and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels (domestic and foreign). In short, net metering makes sense for South Carolina.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this important subject.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Wyche". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "W".

Brad Wyche  
Executive Director